

S H A

An overgrown estate falling into the hands of one that has many children, it is broken into so many portions as render the sharers rich enough.

You must have known it.

—Indeed I did, then favour'd by the king,
And by that means a sharer in the secret.
If, by taking on himself human nature at large, he hath a compassionate and tender sense of the infirmities of mankind in general, he must needs, in a peculiar manner, feel and commiserate the infirmities of the poor, in which he himself was so eminent a sharer.

I suffer many things as an author militant, whereof in your days of probation you have been a sharer.

SHARK. *n. f.* [*canis charcharias*, Latin.]

1. A voracious sea-fish.

His jaws horridly arm'd with threefold fate,
The direful shark.

2. A greedy artful fellow; one who fills his pockets by fly tricks.

David's messengers are sent back to him, like so many sharks and runnagates, only for endeavouring to compliment an ill-nature out of itself, and seeking that by petition which they might have commanded by their sword.

3. Trick; fraud; petty rapine.

Wretches who live upon the shark, and other mens sins, the common poisoners of youth, equally desperate in their fortunes and their manners, and getting their very bread by the damnation of souls.

To SHARK. *v. a.* To pick up hastily or slyly.

Of unimproved mettle, hot and full,
Hath in the skirts of Norway, here and there,
Shark'd up a list of landless resolute.

To SHARK. *v. n.*

1. To play the petty thief.

The fly leads a lazy, voluptuous, scandalous, sharking life, hateful wherever he comes.

2. To cheat; to trick.

There are cheats by natural inclination as well as by corruption: nature taught this boy to shark, not discipline.

The old generous English spirit, which heretofore made this nation so great in the eyes of all the world, seems utterly extinct; and we are degenerated into a mean, sharking, fallacious, undermining converse, there being a snare and a trap almost in every word we hear, and every action we see.

SHARP. *adj.* [Grecian, Saxon; *scherpe*, Dutch.]

1. Keen; piercing; having a keen edge; having an acute point; not blunt.

She hath tied
Sharp tooth'd unkindness like a vulture here.

In Ireland have I seen this stubborn Cade
Oppose himself against a troop of kerns;
And fought so long, till that his thighs with darts
Were almost like a sharp quill'd porcupine.

2. Terminating in a point or edge; not obtuse.

The form of their heads is narrow and sharp, that they may the better cut the air in their swift flight.

There was seen some miles in the sea a great pillar of light, not sharp, but in form of a column or cylinder, rising a great way up towards heaven.

To come near the point, and draw unto a sharper angle, they do not only speak and practise truth, but really desire its enlargement.

Their embryon atoms
Light arm'd or heavy, sharp, smooth, light or slow.

It is so much the firmer by how much broader the bottom and sharper the top.

In shipping such as this, the Irish kern,
And untaught Indian, on the stream did glide,
Ere sharp keel'd boats to stem the flood did learn,
Or fin-like oars did spread from either side.

3. Acute of mind; witty; ingenious; inventive.

Now as fine in his apparel as if he would make me in love with a cloak, and verse for verse with the sharpest witted lover in Arcadia.

If we had nought but sense, each living wight,
Which we call brute, would be more sharp than we.

Sharp to the world, but thoughtless of renown,
They plot not on the stage, but on the town.

There is nothing makes men sharper, and sets their hands and wits more at work, than want.

Many other things belong to the material world, wherein the sharpest philosophers have never yet arrived at clear and distinct ideas.

4. Quick; as of light or hearing.

A the sharpest eye discerneth nought,
Except the sun-beams in the air do shine;
So the best soul, with her reflecting thought,
Sees not herself, without some light divine.

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To sharp eye'd reason this would seem untrue;
But reason I through love's false optics view.

5. Sour without alacrity; four but not austere; acid.

So we, if children young diseased we find,
Anoint with sweets the vessel's foremoil parts,
To make them taste the potions sharp we give;
They drink deceiv'd, and so deceiv'd they live.

Sharp tasted citrons Median clinics produce;
Bitter the rind, but generous is the juice.

Different simple ideas are sometimes expressed by the same word, as sweet and sharp are applied to the objects of hearing and tasting.

6. Shrill; piercing the ear with a quick noise; not flat.

In whistling you contract the mouth, and, to make it more sharp, men use their finger.

Let one whistle at the one end of a trunk, and hold your ear at the other, and the sound strikes so sharp as you can scarce endure it.

For the various modulation of the voice, the upper end of the windpipe is endued with several cartilages to contract or dilate it, as we would have our voice flat or sharp.

7. Severe; harsh; biting; sarcastic.

If he should intend his voyage towards my wife, I would turn her loose to him; and what he gets more of her than sharp words, let it lie on my head.

How often may we meet with those who are one while courteous, but within a small time after are so supercilious, sharp, troublesome, fierce and exception, that they are not only short of the true character of friendship, but become the very foes and burdens of society!

Cease contention: be thy words severe,
Sharp as he merits; but the sword forbear.

8. Severe; quick to punish; cruel; severely rigid.

There, gentle Hermia, may I marry thee;
And to that place the sharp Athenian law
Cannot pursue us.

9. Eager; hungry; keen upon a quest.

My falcon now is sharp and passing empty,
And, till the floop, the mull not be full gorg'd;
For then the never looks upon her lure.

The sharp desire I had
Of tasting.

10. Painful; afflictive.

That she may feel
How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is,
To have a thankless child.

He caused his father's friends to be cruelly tortured; grieving to see them live to whom he was so much beholden, and therefore rewarded them with such sharp payment.

Death becomes
His final remedy; and after life
Try'd in sharp tribulation, and refin'd
By faith, and faithful works.

It is a very small comfort that a plain man, lying under a sharp fit of the stone, receives from this sentence.

11. Fierce; ardent; fiery.

Their petty feign'd,
In sharp contest of battle found no aid.

A sharp assault already is begun;
Their murdering guns play fiercely on the walls.

12. Attentive; vigilant.

Sharp at her utmost ken she cast her eyes,
And somewhat floating from afar descends
Is a man bound to look out sharp to plague himself, and to take care that he slips no opportunity of being unhappy?

A clergyman, established in a competent living, is not under the necessity of being to sharp and exacting.

13. Acrid; biting; pinching; piercing, as the cold.

The windpipe is continually moistened with a glutinous humour, issuing out of small glandules in its inner coat, to fence it against the sharp air.

Nor here the sun's meridian rays had pow'r,
Nor wind sharp piercing, nor the rushing show'r,
The verdant arch so close its texture kept.

14. Subtle; nice; witty; acute.

Sharp and subtle discourses procure very great applause; but being laid in the balance with that which found experience plainly delivereth, they are overweighed.

The instances you mention are the strongest and sharpest that can be urged.

15. [Among workmen.] Hard.

They make use of the sharpest sand, that being best for mortar, to lay bricks and tiles in.

His visage drawn he felt to sharp and spare.

SHARP. *n. f.* [from the adjective.]

1. A sharp or acute sound.

It is the lark that sings so out of tune,
Straining harsh discords and unpleasing sharps.

2. A pointed weapon; small sword; rapier.

If butchers had but the manners to go to sharps, gentlemen would be contented with a rubber at cuffs.

S H A

To SHARP. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To make keen.

Whom the whetstone sharpens to eat,
They cry, millstones are good meat.

To SHARP. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To play thievish tricks.

I live upon what's my own, whereas your scandalous life is only cheating or sharping, one half of the year, and starving the other.

To SHARPEN. *v. a.* [from sharp.]

1. To make keen; to edge; to point.

The weaker their helps are, the more their need is to sharpen the edge of their own industry.

The Israelites went down to the Philistines to sharpen every man his share and his coulter.

His severe wrath shall he sharpen for a sword.

The grating of a saw when sharpen'd, offends so much as it fetters the teeth on edge.

Th' squadron bright, sharp'ning in mooned horns
Their phalanx.

It may contribute to his misery, heighten the anguish, and sharpen the sting of conscience, and so add fury to the everlasting flames, when he shall reflect upon the abuse of wealth and greatness.

No 'tis resistance that inflames desire;
Sharpen the darts of love, and blows the fire.

Let ten moons had sharpen'd either horn,
To crown their bliss, a lovely boy was born.

Her nails are sharpen'd into pointed claws,
Her hands bear half her weight and turn to paws.

2. To make quick, ingenious, or acute.

Overmuch quickness of wit, either given by nature, or sharpen'd by study, doth not commonly bring greatest learning, best manners, or happiest life in the end.

3. To make quicker of sense.

Th' air sharpen'd his visual ray
To objects distant far.

4. To make eager or hungry.

Epiceurean cooks
Sharpen with cloyless sauce his appetite.

Such an assurance as will sharpen mens desires and quicken their endeavours for obtaining a lesser good, ought to inspire men with more vigour in pursuit of what is greater.

4. To make fierce or angry.

Mine enemy sharpen'd his eyes upon me.

5. To make biting, or sarcastic.

My haughty soul would swell;
Sharpen each word, and threaten in my eyes.

6. To make less flat; more piercing to the ears.

Enclosures not only preserve sound, but encrease and sharpen it.

7. To make four.

SHARPER. *n. f.* [from sharp.] A tricking fellow; a petty thief; a rascal.

Sharps, as pikes, prey upon their own kind.

He should retrench what he lost to sharps, and spent upon puppet-plays, to apply it to that use.

Only wear it in a land of Hectors,
Thieves, supercargo's, sharps, and directors.

SHARPLY. *adv.* [from sharp.]

1. With keenness; with good edge or point.

2. Severely; rigorously; roughly.

They are more sharply to be chastised and reformed than the rude Irish, which being very wild at the first, are now become more civil.

3. Keenly; acutely; vigorously.

The mind and memory are more sharply exercised in comprehending another man's things than our own.

4. Afflictively; painfully.

At the arrival of the English ambassadors the soldiers were sharply assailed with wants.

5. With quickness.

You contract your eye when you would see sharply; and erect your ear when you would hear attentively.

6. Judiciously; acutely; wittily.

SHARPNESS. *n. f.* [from sharp.]

1. Keenness of edge or point.

Palladius neither suffering us nor himself to take in hand the party till the afternoon; when we were to fight in troops, not differing otherwise from camest, but that the sharpness of the weapons was taken away.

A second glance came gliding like the first;
And he who saw the sharpness of the dart,
Without defence receiv'd it in his heart.

2. Not obtuse.

Force consisteth in the roundings and raisings of the work, according as the limbs do more or less require it; so as the beholder shall spy no sharpness in the bordering lines.

3. Sourness without suaveness.

There is a sharpness in vinegar, and there is a sharpness in pain, in sorrow, and in reproach; there is a sharp eye, a sharp wit, and a sharp sword: but there is not one of these severe sharpnesses the same as another of them; and a sharp east wind is different from them all.

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Provoking sweat extremely, and taking away all sharpness from whatever you put in, must be of good effect in the cure of the gout.

4. Severity of language; satirical sarcasm.

Thou must not take my former sharpness ill,
I will employ thee back again.

Some did all folly with just sharpness blame,
While others laugh'd and scorn'd them into shame;

But, of these two, the last succeeded best,
As men aim rightest when they shoot in jest.

This is a subject of which it is hard to speak without satirical sharpness and particular reflections on many churches of christians.

The sharpness of his satyr, next to himself, falls most heavily on his friends.

5. Painfulness; afflictiveness.

We sweat and bleed; the friend hath lost his friend;
And the best quarrels in the heat are cur'd

By those that feel their sharpness.

Not a single death only that then attended this profession; but the terror and sharpness of it was redoubled in the manner and circumstances.

6. Intellectual acuteness; ingenuity; wit.

Till Arianism had made it a matter of great sharpness, and subtilty of wit to be a sound believing christian, men were not curious what syllables or particles of speech they used.

The daring of the soul proceeds from thence,
Sharpness of wit and active diligence.

The son returned with strength of constitution, sharpness of understanding, and skill in languages.

7. Quickness of senses.

If the understanding or faculty of the soul be like unto bodily sight, not of equal sharpness in all; what can be more convenient than that, even as the dark-sighted man is directed by the clear about things visible, so likewise in matters of deeper discourse the wife in heart doth shew the simple where his way lieth.

SHARP-SET. [*sharp* and *set*.] Eager; vehemently desirous.

Basilus forced her to stay, tho' with much ado, she being sharp-set upon the fulfilling of a shrewd office, in overlooking Philoclea.

An eagle sharp-set, looking about her for her prey, spy'd a leveret.

Our senses are sharp-set on pleasures.

A comedy of Johnson's, not Ben, held seven nights, for the town is sharp-set on new plays.

SHARP-VISAGED. *adj.* [*sharp* and *visaged*.] Having a sharp countenance.

The Welch that inhabit the mountains are commonly sharp-visaged.

SHARP-SIGHTED. *adj.* [*sharp* and *sight*.] Having quick sight.

If she were the body's quality,
Then would she be with it sick, maim'd, and blind;

But we perceive, where these privations be,
An healthy, perfect, and sharp-sighted mind.

I am not so sharp-sighted as those who have discerned this rebellion contriving from the death of Q. Elizabeth.

Your majesty's clear and sharp-sighted judgment has as good a title to give law in matters of this nature, as in any other.

Nothing so fierce but love will soften, nothing so sharp-sighted in other matters but it throws a mist before the eyes on't.

To SHATTER. *v. a.* [*schetteren*, Dutch.]

1. To break at once into many pieces; to break so as to scatter the parts.

He rais'd a sigh so piteous and profound,
That it did seem to shatter all his bulk,
And rend his being.

Ye myrtles brown, with ivy never fear,
I come to pluck your berries harsh and crude,
And with forc'd fingers rude
Shatter your leaves before the mellowing year.

They escape dissolution, because they can scarce ever meet with an agent minute, and swiftly enough moved, to shatter or dislocate the combined parts.

A monarchy was shattered to pieces, and divided amongst revolted subjects, into a multitude of little governments.

Black from the stroke above, the smouldring pine
Stands as a shatter'd trunk.

2. To dissipate; to make incapable of close and continued attention.

A man of a loose, volatile and shatter'd humour, thinks only by fits and starts.

To SHATTER. *v. n.* To be broken, or to fall, by any force applied, into fragments.

Of bodies, some are fragil; and some are tough and not fragil; and in the breaking, some fragil bodies break but where the force is; some shatter and fly in many places.

SHATTER. *n. f.* [from the verb.] One part of many into which any thing is broken at once.